Sabha on 7.3.2001, which, *inter-alia*, seeks to ban on smoking in public places and sale of tobacco products to persons below 18 years of age. The Bill is presently under consideration of the Department Related Parliamentary Standing Committee on Human Resource Development of Rajya Sabha.

Organ Transplant Act, 1994

3715. SHRI RAMA MUNI REDDY SIRIGIREDDY : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Organ Transplant Act, 1994 banned donors and other relatives of patients from donating kidneys;

(b) if so, the reasons for such a ban; and

(c) whether it is not affecting the needy patients who are in dire need of kidneys?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA) : (a) No, Sir, Under Sub-section (3) of section 9 of Transplantation of Human Organs Act, 1994, organs, including kidneys, from brain stem dead persons, including other relatives of patients, can be transplanted to the needy recipients. Moreover, the authorisation Committees constituted under clause (a) or (b) of sub-section (4) of section 9 of the said Act can also consider donation of human organs by non-related live donors.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Setting-up of special panel to monitor complaints of female foeticide

3716. SHRI R. P. GOENKA : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have recently decided to set up a special panel to monitor complaints of female foeticide and the related diagnostic tests widely prevalent in the country, as reported in the Times of India dated the 4th August, 2001;

(b) if so, the details of specific role assigned and the penal powers, if any, vested in the panel;

(c) the difficulties encountered in administering the existing Pre-Natal Diagnostic Techniques Act, 1993; and

(d) the other proposal under Government's consideration to check these malpractices and also to undertake a comprehensive review of the Act in view of the fast changing technologies in the medical field?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA) : (a) and (b) It has been decided to set up a special cell headed by an Assistant Commissioner level officer to assist the Central Supervisory Board in monitoring the reports received from State Governments and Appropriate Authorities appointed at State/district/sub-district levels. No penal powers will be vested with the Special Cell, as the powers to impose penalty on the basis of complaints are vested in the Courts as per the Pre-natal Diagnostic Techniques (Regulation and Prevention of Misuse) Act, 1994.

(c) In spite of the existence of the Pre-natal Diagnostic Techniques (Regulation and Prevention of Misuse) Act, hardly any case for prosecution of the persons involved in this evil practice could succeed so far for want of appropriate evidence against the parties involved in the crime, because the crime is committed with the active connivance and consent of all the parties secretly.

(d) In order to strengthen the implementation mechanism for more effective implementation of the provisions of the Act and to suggest amendments in the Act to cover new emerging technologies, the Central Supervisory Board under the Pre-natal Diagnostic Techniques (Regulation and Prevention of Misuse) Act, 1994 has constituted two Sub-Committees viz. (i) Sub-Committee on Implementation Strategy and Social awareness; and (ii) Technical Sub-Committee and to suggest amendments of the statutes keeping in view the changing technologies in the medical field.

News-Item "Indian population in US posts record growth"

3717. SHRI ABANI ROY : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news-item captioned, "Indian population in US posts record growth", which appeared in the Times of India, dated 16th May, 2001;

(b) if so, whether the US has recorded a phenomenal growth of Indian population in Asia.